

REMARKS:

Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 32 to 34 are presented in corrected form as presented in the Amendment filed December 6, 2004, as requested by paragraphs 2 and 6 of the outstanding Action. Claims 18 and 30 were amended to obviate rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 in response to paragraph 6 of the Action, without materially affecting the scope of the pending claims. Entry of these pending claims was provided to place the claims in better condition for appeal.

The present Amendment is filed in combination with a Request for Extension of Time and a Request for Continued Prosecution to refocus prosecution on claims directed to different preferred embodiments. APPLICANT RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE PREVIOUS ELECTION OF SPECIES BE CHANGED TO SPECIES V, FIGS. 6 AND 7. However, it is also respectfully requested that consideration be given to examination of claims reading on the previously elected Species I (FIGS. 1 & 2), which depict holder/folders having three panels, which are closely related to the five panels shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. Both "species" as delineated by the initial Action comprise multiple panels numbering more than two and therefore could easily be examined as one species. Claims 34, 36, 37, 38 to 43, 44 to 50 and 35 (the latter previously withdrawn from consideration) are deemed to read upon embodiments of FIGS. 6 and 7, and as stated previously, Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 13 to 16 read upon embodiments of FIGS. 1 and 2.

As stated *inter alia* in the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 of Amendment I, the many details illustrated for various types of access means, structures of holders for same and the removably attachable security devices employed therewith can be used in countless combinations and

permutations, all of which are covered by at least one of the previous independent Claims 1, 18, 30 and 34. Applicant's illustration and description of alternative and equivalent forms of the components of the invention should not be used as justification for assignment of these embodiments to excessive numbers of "species".

Claims 1, 8, 10, 15, 18 have been amended herein to consolidate limitations into claims reflecting certain preferred embodiments, Claims 21 and 31 to 36 otherwise amended and new Claims 37 to 50 added to emphasize features found in the species of FIGS. 6 and 7. Method Claims 22 to 29 have been canceled. To reduce issues and advance prosecution, access means comprising combinations for locks have been deleted from the claims as amended. Support for the amended and new claims discussed above is found throughout the specification, original claims and drawings, and no new matter is deemed to be added thereby. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of Invention:

The present invention embodies the concept of providing a removably attachable security device including a portion identifying a space such as a hotel room, which device can be attached to a holder assembly for access means such as a key, or to the key itself. Holder assemblies are claimed with and without such keys, and keys alone in combination with the security devices are also claimed. Various incentives, preferably including instructions and at least one reward, are provided for the user to separate at least the identification portion of the security device from the holder assembly (or the access means itself) and to keep it separate from the access means for security reasons.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112: Obviated by the Amendment After Final Rejection filed September 29, 2005 and entered.

OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS:

Claims 1 to 6, 11 to 13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Laughlin. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that Laughlin neither discloses nor suggests these claims as amended. Applicant's comments and arguments against Laughlin from pages 16 to 18 of the previous Amendment are incorporated herein by reference. These claims as presented distinguish further over Laughlin for the following reasons: The Action fails to distinguish between Applicant's claimed holder and the security device which is detachable or removably attachable with regard to the holder in its characterization of Laughlin's holder. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the security device is removable from the holder as amply disclosed and illustrated in the present application.

The Action mischaracterizes Laughlin's holder (6) as a security device, whereas this patent lacks a means for separating the room number from the holder. Laughlin in fact teaches away from the present invention in that the key itself contains the room number (column 2, penultimate paragraph), thus defeating the security objective.

Laughlin not only lacks any instructions or incentives for removing a security device from the holder and key, but by marking the key with the room number defeats any effort to safeguard the guest. Laughlin also does not disclose or suggest folding the card panels of Fig. 2 to form a booklet as claimed. Neither are any instructions provided (pointless in the case of a marked key) to separate the key

and holder from a removable portion containing the room number, as recited in Claim 18. It is therefore respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 7 to 10 stand rejected over Laughlin in view of Hollar under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled, leaving both Claims 8 and 10 dependent upon Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that no combination of the teachings of these references suggest the invention as claimed. Applicant's remarks and arguments re these references on pages 19 and 20 of the previous Amendment are hereby incorporated herein by reference, as are the remarks above re Laughlin with regard to Claims 1 *et al.* Claims 8 and 10 distinguish further over the combined teachings of these references in that both include removable space identification portions, and Claim 10's security device comprises a cord or strip attached to this ID portion. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Thompson. It is respectfully submitted that no combination of the teachings of these references suggest the invention as claimed therein. The comments and arguments re these references on pages 20 through 22 in Amendment I, as well as the remarks re Laughlin and Claims 1 *et al.* above are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Claims 14 and 15 distinguish over the cited references in that Laughlin teaches away from the claimed invention and lacks a security device removable from a holder and there is no motivation or suggestion to employ the peelable labels of Thompson in combination with the teachings of Laughlin or in the context

of the present invention.

Claims 16, 19 and 30 to 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Jacobs, but Claim 19 has been canceled. Applicant's comments and arguments re these references on pages 22 through 25 of the previous Amendment, as well as the remarks re Laughlin and Claims 1 et al. above are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Applicant wishes to reemphasize that Jacobs (column 1) does not disclose the "desirability of keeping an access means separate from a room number ...;" rather, it emphasizes the inconvenience of such practices and teaches away from the present invention by marking the holder with the room number. The remaining claims distinguish further over these cited references in that Claims 16 recites security instructions and Claims 30 to 33 claim combinations of keyholders with removable security devices which contain keys. It is therefore respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Wright, based upon Wright's disclosure of a key packet including a map. Claim 36, amended to emphasize the combination of holder and key, distinguishes over Laughlin as discussed above, and Wright's mere disclosure of a packet with map comes no closer to suggesting the invention of Claim 36. Claim 35, also dependent upon Claim 30 and previously withdrawn, has also been amended to emphasize the combination of key with holder.

New Claims 37 to 43 depend from previous Claims 34 or 35, and new Claims 44 to 50 are directed to embodiments of Figures 6 and 7. These claims are submitted to distinguish

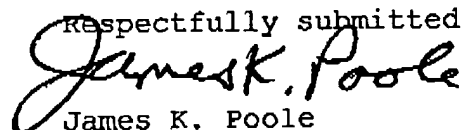
over the references cited in the rejections above at least on the bases presented in Applicant's remarks above. Careful consideration of these claims in the context of the issues already under discussion is respectfully requested .

Applicant's Attorney regrets any inconvenience the submission of this Amendment on the final response date may cause, but Applicant has been unable (due to severe medical and financial problems) to authorize action sooner. Despite the delay, timely reconsideration and action on the merits is respectfully requested in accordance with Applicant's approved Petition to Make Special.

If any question arises regarding entry and examination of these papers, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's Attorney so that any administrative issues can be promptly resolved and the claims as presented can be promptly examined on their merits.

This response is being filed on April 4, the original due date for the Appeal Brief as extended for four months, by the Attached Extension request and fee and is thus timely. An extra copy of this page is attached for finance processing. As sixteen claims have been canceled, including one independent claim, and a total of fourteen claims added (also including one additional independent claim), no fees are believed due for additional claims. The RCE fee has been combined with that for the Extension of Time.

USSN 10/657,880

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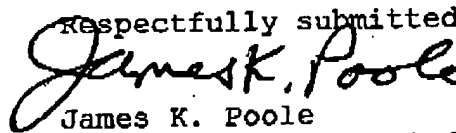
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